

SECRET

JAN 30 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Request from Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy

1. In the letter attached at TAB A, the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy has requested:

a. A written estimate of Soviet capabilities to "impair, prevent, or frustrate the delivery of U. S. atomic weapons to targets inside Russia".

b. A presentation, either written or oral, of the evidence on which the recent report on the Soviet atomic energy program is based.

2. It is apparent that the first request necessitates an appraisal of Soviet defensive capabilities in terms of U. S. offensive capabilities. In this respect, the request is analagous to the NATO paper, (NIE-13), in that U. S. operational information is a significant consideration. This estimate can be prepared with the assistance of the other IAC agencies, and if arrangements are made with the Secretary of Defense for participation of Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, which has done considerable work on this general subject. Appropriate implementing memoranda are being prepared for your approval.

3. Compliance with the request for presentation of the evidence on which our Atomic Energy report is based involves disclosure of highly sensitive source information concerning Special Intelligence, SO sources, the exchange of intelligence with [REDACTED]

Therefore, it is recommended that the Director meet informally with Chairman McMahon of the Joint Committee and point out to him exactly what is involved from the standpoint of security, and that under current directives it would be impossible for the Director to testify before the Committee as to the sources of information lying behind our semi-annual report. The Chairman might also be told that if the Director does appear it will be necessary for him to decline to answer questions dealing with sensitive source material and request the Chairman to protect him to this extent. Admiral Hillenkoetter made a similar approach to Senator McMahon last year, and his requests in this connection were fully honored.

4. A reply to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy is attached at TAB B for your consideration.

Concurrences:

H. MARSHALL CHADWELL
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Assistant Director, IC _____ Date _____

Assistant Director, NE _____ Date _____

Approved For Release 2001/08/09 : CIA-RDP91-00682R000300010106-4
Legislative Counsel _____ Date _____

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